



RECYCLING DIVISION OF
MAHONING COUNTY

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The Green Scene

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Beyond the Clouds

For years, environmentalists have been warning the public about the hazards of releasing helium balloons. In spite of these efforts, however, many groups continue the practice, oblivious to the well-documented dangers. Let's face it: Balloons look beautiful as they rise above the clouds but that is where the beauty ends. When balloons fall to the ground they just become another source of litter marring the scenery and causing problems for wildlife.

Fortunately, the staff at Raphael's School of Beauty in Alliance was able to see beyond the clouds. In May, Raphael's

hosted a fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society and had originally planned to release helium balloons as part of the celebration. However, when alerted to the dangers of this activity, the balloon release was promptly cancelled. In fact when VP of Operations, Carly Allen, became aware of the situation, she was grateful for her new-found knowledge and promised to spread the message. However, Carly wasn't the only Raphael's employee to embrace this conservation effort. Instead of releasing helium balloons, salon manager, Sarah Petrony, organized a cupcake ceremony to

shine light on the Cancer Society's wish for a world with more birthdays. What a wonderful thought!

I applaud Raphael's for taking a stand and doing the right thing. Due to their commitment, a worthy charity and a deserving environment reaped benefits.

~ Kim Lewis



The staff at Raphael's celebrated a world with more birthdays at their ACS fundraiser.



Don't Trash Your Cash



Everyone knows that recycling conserves natural resources, saves energy, and extends landfill life. But did you know that recycling may also save you money on your trash bill?

Here's how it works.

Many waste haulers offer Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) programs to their customers upon request. As the name implies, PAYT means that you

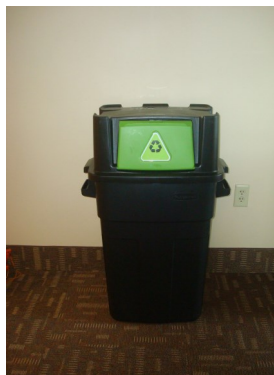
you only pay for the amount of trash you actually throw away. Some PAYT programs require that the customer purchase special white bags. Other PAYT programs require that the customer apply an identifying tag or sticker to the bag. Still other programs set a small limit on the amount of waste that can be set out each week. Regardless of the program you

choose though, the benefits are great. By setting less waste at the curb you can improve the condition of the environment and realize a cost savings on your trash bill.

So, what are you waiting for? If you would like to "stash" rather than "trash" your cash, call your local hauler and ask about Pay-As-You-Throw. You just may be pleasantly surprised!



Earth-friendly Fun at the Canfield Fair



Thanks to a grant from the USDA, Rural Development Office, fair recycling bins have a new look. Stop by the Green Team booth for a list of locations.

The Canfield Fair is an exciting event that local residents look forward to every year. This year it will be particularly exciting because the Green Team is offering a variety of activities.

On Wednesday, Sept. 2, The Green Team will be involved in OSU Extension's Health Fair. This event will take place in the Expo Building from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. On Friday, Sept. 4, the Green Team will again partner with OSU Extension for a "Senior Day" forum. This too will take place in the Expo Building be-

ginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m.

Throughout the entire fair, Green Team staffers will be on hand at a colorful display in the Government Building. There fairgoers can learn about wonderful environmental programs, pick up a promotional item made with recovered material, and enter a drawing to win a backyard compost bin. Also during the fair, please remember to recycle your beverage containers. The Green Team is providing new recycling bins through-

out the fairgrounds for aluminum cans and plastic bottles. In addition, a container for aluminum cans will be available at the "Angels for Animals" booth. Participation in this program will help generate funds for the shelter.

Whether you're interested in participating in a special event, entering a drawing or just stopping by to chat with a staff member, the Green Team will be there to accommodate you.



Summer Reading Library Schedule

July

6 Austintown	11 am
23 Poland	2 pm
28 Brownlee	2 pm
30 East	2 pm

Join the Green Team at the above locations for a rousing rendition of Michael Recycle.



Keep Kids Engaged

Studies show that students lose months of reading and math skills over summer vacation. Therefore it is important to keep children intellectually engaged during the summer by participating in stimulating activities.

Local parks provide a variety of wonderful programs for summer fun and learning. Whether it in-

volves taking a walk with a naturalist, planting a garden, or studying wildlife there is bound to be something that appeals to everyone.

Of course, the library is always a good choice for summer enrichment. From toddlers to teens, summer discovery programs offer a variety of exciting activities that often include incentives.

No list would be complete without mentioning summer camps. Many technical centers, colleges, and universities now host day camps that let kids explore interesting subjects not readily offered in school.

So...keep your kids engaged. By doing so, you will surely create a brighter future for everyone.

Learn to Compost with the Green Team

Did you know that nearly one quarter of the waste stream is composed of organic material that can be easily recycled? The process for recycling organics is called composting, and the Green Team is conducting an educational seminar to teach you all about it! On Saturday, August 15, The Green Team will host a Compost Semi-

nar at the Weidenmeir House located on St. Rt. 224 in Berlin Center. The seminar will begin promptly at 10:00 am and end at 11:00 am. Cost for the seminar is \$10.00 for Mahoning County residents and \$40.00 for non-residents. Seminar will include a one-hour training session with video instruction and open discussion.

Registrants will receive a backyard compost bin, instructional booklet and trouble-shooting guide. If you would like to participate in this activity, please call the Green Team at 330-740-2060 and request a registration form. Pre-registration is required.



Mashorda's County Gardens & Lowe's accept nursery pots for re-use.

Mahoning County Schools Earn High Marks for Recycling Cans

Congratulations are in order for several Mahoning County schools in recognition of their exemplary recycling efforts. In the county-wide "Cash for Cans" contest, numbers are quite impressive. Twenty-one participating schools collected a total of 7,318 pounds of beverage cans earning \$3939.08. The breakdown is as follows:

Overall School Winners	Pounds Collected	Enrollment
1 st - Damascus Elementary	922	409
2 nd - St. Christine	888	393
3 rd - Western Reserve Elementary	635	265
Per Capita School Winners		
1 st - St. Nicholas	363	127
2 nd - Center at Javit Court	186	76
3 rd - St. Joseph the Provider	272	132

These schools will receive checks for the market value of the cans along with framed Award Certificates.

Additional contributors to the contest include:

Boardman Glenwood Middle School	Poland North Elementary School	MCC&TC
Canfield Village Middle School	West Blvd. Elementary School	West Branch High School
Boardman Center Middle School	Knox Elementary School	Yo. Christian School
McGuffey Elementary School	Jackson Milton Elementary School	
St. Charles Elementary School	Poland Union Elementary School	
Cardinal Mooney High School	Springfield Elementary School	

Again, thanks to everyone involved in this worthwhile project. Mahoning County can take great pride in knowing that its youth are helping to preserve our precious environment through their outstanding recycling efforts.



A Solution for Scrap Tires



Ohioans generate 12-14 million scrap tires per year and this waste, if not managed properly, poses significant problems for the environment. Littered tires collect water which provides breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes. Illegal tire dumps are unsightly and often lead to harmful fires. So...what's

the answer to this problem? The answer is simple. When you purchase new tires, make sure you allow the tire dealer to keep your used tires for recycling or proper disposal. The nominal fee charged for this service is a small price to pay for protecting our precious planet. However, if you have neglected to partici-

pate in a tire take-back program, there is another option. The Green Team is hosting a tire recycling drive at the Canfield Fairgrounds on July 18 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The event is open to Mahoning County residents only and restrictions and fees may apply. Please visit www.greenteam.cc for further information.

Extend the life of your tires by:

- checking tire pressure on a weekly basis.
- visually examining tires for cuts & holes.
- rotating tires every 6,000 miles driven.
- keeping tires properly aligned.

Placemat Winners Recognized by Mahoning County

Commissioners David Ditzler, Carol Rimedio-Righetti and Anthony Traficanti honored eight students who won first place out of 595 entries in the Green Team's 2015 Earth Day Placemat Contest. The winners and their schools are: Diane Smith, Poland Union; Addyson Miller, Holy Family; Kayci Harding, West Blvd.; Daphne Snyder, Damascus;

Jenna Madick, Glenwood MS; Alaina Fitch, Western Reserve MS; Alisa Telega, St. Christine and Anson Hankey, St. Christine. Each student received a \$25 gift card provided by Dominion & assorted Earth-friendly prizes provided by the Green Team. Look for winning placemats at the following locations:

- Alliance Perkins
- American Legion #737
- Canfield Perkins
- Canfield Belleria
- Carchedi's
- Damascus Ruritans
- Denny's
- Dino's
- Saxon Club
- Yankee Kitchen



Mahoning County Commissioners pose with placemat award winners and members of the Green Team.

Watershed Action Plan

To view the State Endorsed Yellow Creek watershed action plan, visit <http://www.eastgatecog.org/EnvironmentalPlanning/WatershedPlanning.aspx> and click on the Yellow Creek Watershed Action Plan link. Also, stay tuned for another watershed plan under construction for Meander Creek!



Summer is in full swing and summer algae season (not to be confused with allergy season) is well underway. It is not unusual to see a layer of algae on the surface of our region's lakes, ponds, and streams because some algae is good. However, in recent years harmful types of algae have become more prevalent and toxic to our Nation's surface waters. Nutrients such as Nitrogen and Phosphorus are two of the most common non point source pollutants. Both nutrients are byproducts of agricultural and residential fertilizer runoff and failing septic systems. Excess nutrients serve as catalysts for harmful algae as they grow

at a rapid pace.

The American Water Works Association, in their white paper on Algal Toxin Treatment, states "a watershed protection program can help reduce the nutrient load on the watershed area. An effective watershed management program will help identify specific environmental characteristics of the watershed and actions necessary to reduce or eliminate potential contaminants." This statement translates into: "Endorse and implement your local watershed action plans."

Yellow Creek and the Meander Creek watersheds house surface drinking water sources that are susceptible

to nutrient enrichment due to their urbanized and/or agricultural landscapes. The watershed action plans identify sources of nutrients as fertilizers (urban and agricultural), manure, and failing septic systems. All three sources are manageable and can be contained onsite through several different measures. These measures include using fertilizers sparingly, storing and/or applying manure away from surface water and establishing vegetated stream buffers to absorb nutrients prior to entering surface water.

So, check out the plan. View the box at left to learn how.

~ Stephanie Dyer, Eastgate

Traveling with Mother Earth in Mind

Environmental Quote

"It is our collective and individual responsibility to protect and nurture the global family, to support its weaker members and to preserve and tend to the environment in which we all live."

~ Dalai Lama

Shortly after beginning my job at the Green Team, I took a road trip to Arizona with my family. When I returned, I brought vacation photos into the office to share with my coworkers. These photos included recycling in Illinois, recycling in Nebraska, recycling in Colorado, recycling in Missouri...well, you get the picture. I was able to recycle throughout my entire vacation. Some people joked that I should "get a life". Well, I *do* have a life. It is a life that includes being a good steward of the earth at all times.

Although traveling presents some challenges in the area of waste reduction,

these challenges can be overcome. Some important tips to remember when traveling include:

- Use your travel mug. Travelers who make frequent stops for coffee can refill a travel mug instead of using disposable cups.
- Recycle beverage containers. Many rest areas have recycling receptacles available for both aluminum and plastic.
- Eat at full-serve restaurants. The life expectancy of a fast food container is only ten minutes. By eating at a full-serve restaurant you not only reduce

waste, you also get a chance to stretch your legs and re-energize.

- Carry a litter bag in your car for non-recyclables. It will be easy and convenient to empty your litter bag when you stop for gas.

Today I am still taking road trips with my family and recycling every step of the way. I hope you'll consider using these tips during your summer travels. Remember, recycling never takes a vacation. We all need to be good stewards of the earth no matter where we are.

~ Kim Lewis

